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Weekly Summary

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The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Current Reporting Group, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Regional and Political Analysis, the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Scientific Intelligence, the Office of Weapons Intelligence, and the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research.

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8 **Western Hemisphere**
Argentina

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Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly. Telephone:

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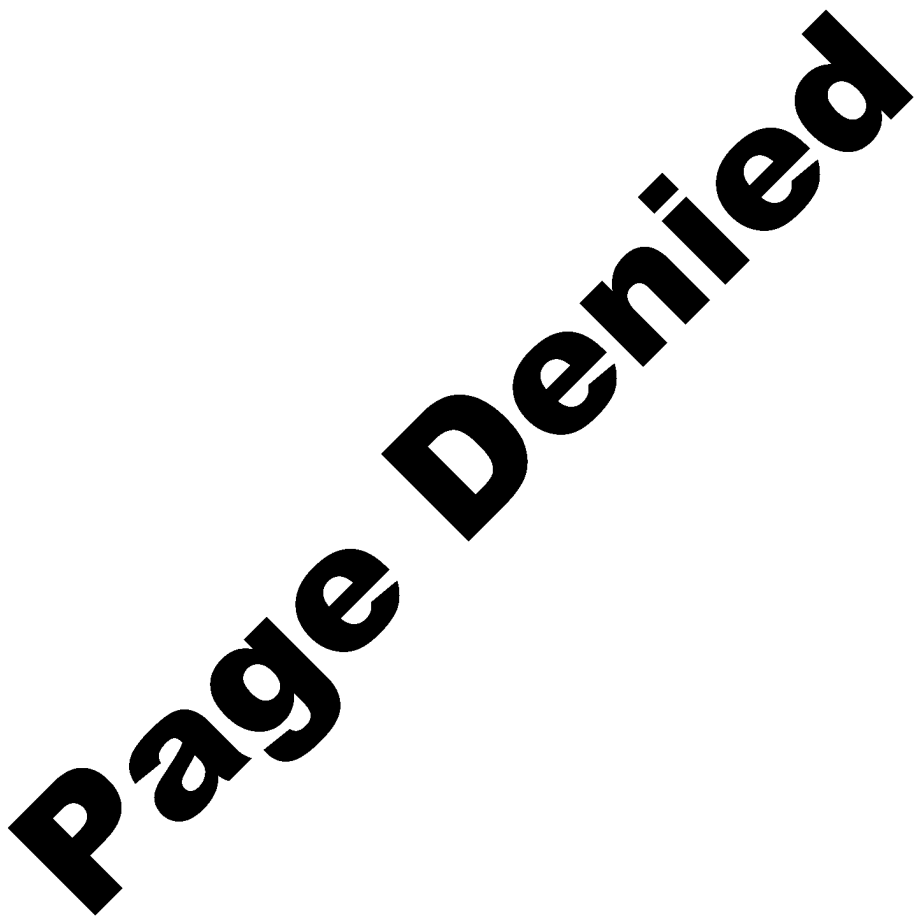

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ARGENTINA

An effort by the Argentine Navy in recent weeks to show itself as the leading defender of national sovereignty may be part of the increasing political pressure being put on President Videla by his junta partner, Navy chief Admiral Massera. The increased friction among the junta members will make it more difficult for the President to get agreement on and implement national policy objectives.

Last weekend, Massera, probably to enhance his political prestige, ordered Argentine warships to fire on Soviet and Bulgarian trawlers inside Argentina's 200-mile territorial limit. Argentine warships had earlier seized five Soviet trawlers in a well-publicized incident. In addition, the Foreign Ministry—controlled by the Navy—has recently delivered a stiff protest to Chile for alleged violations of Argentina's territorial waters and unauthorized flights over an area where the boundary between the two countries is in dispute.

Interservice rivalry, particularly between the Army and the Navy, is characteristic of the Argentine armed forces, where personal ambitions sometimes aggravate ideological or policy differences. Massera has long been jealous of the Army's predominance in the junta—Videla is Army chief—and has previously tried to undercut the President, whom he considers indecisive, ineffective, and too willing to compromise.

In recent months, Massera has become openly critical of the administration's economic policies. The Navy is also widely believed to be responsible for a published article attacking Videla's trip to Washington last month—such blatant criticism that the President had the publication in which the article appeared banned for three months.

Videla recognizes that attempts are being made to discredit his leadership but is constrained from acting forcefully to check them. He knows that the consensus within the military that put him and the Army in the top position remains fragile, and that he must move cautiously to preserve it.

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President Videla

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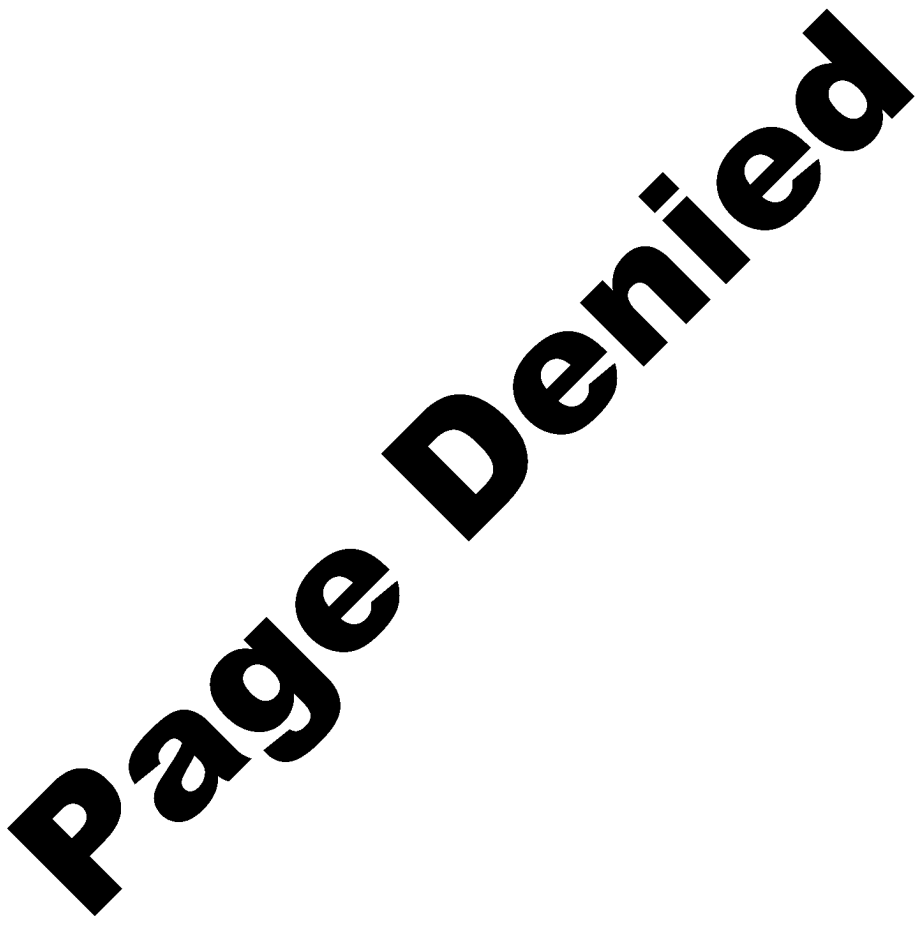

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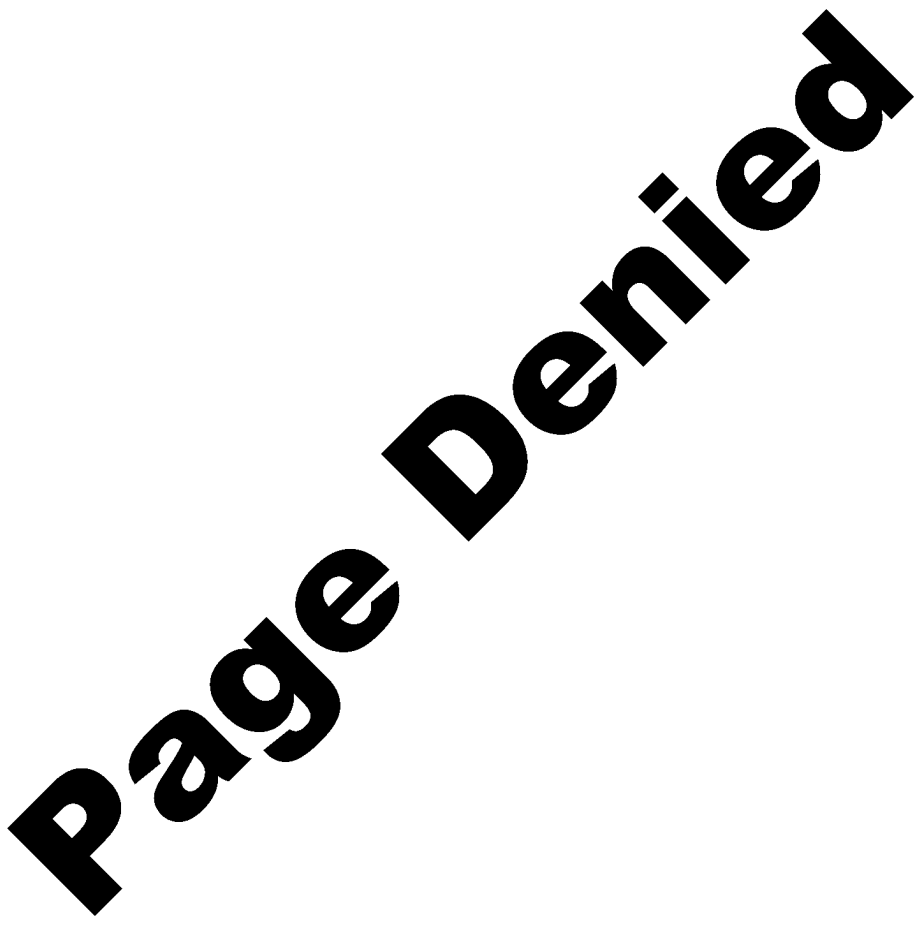

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